

Vol. IV.

[ 177 ]

Numb. 45

A

# REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

---

Saturday, May 24. 1707.

---

I Cannot but adjourn the Course of for the at present necessary Diversion of the REVIEW, I mean as to the our *Miscellanea*; and the Case is as follows.

---

## MISCELLANEA.

I Have often took the Freedom to call upon our News-Writers and Authors of the publick Prints, to caution them against telling us Impossibilities and Stories, that shock the very Readers at first View, that give one's Head a Knock when they come to be read, and makes a Man's Tongue falter just in the very Expression; Things, after they have dictated to, printed at, and revised from the Press without blushing, are apt to make the Reader blush to repeat, and which

as they are ridiculous, and expoles the Reputation of the Writer, so they seem to be a Satyr on the Understanding of his Readers, as if he could believe them capable of so much Ignorance, as not to see, or seeing, be content with such Blunders.

To say it is translated right, has been an old Excuse, and we are, it seems, to allow foreign Nonsense to be translated into English Nonsense — But then the Translator might give it us as Nonsense, and tell us

us he knew it; and not leave us to take it for a serious Story, when it ought to pass for a Lampoon.

I have not often of late troubled this Paper with these Follies, but the Reader will bear with it, when the Variety is so remarkable, and the Reasons of it now, I believe, will appear to be very just.

*First,* In a certain printed Paper of May .... we are told, That three English Ships were brought into Dunkirk, One with Wine and Cloth, Value 12000 Livres, One with Tobacco, &c. Value 8000 Livres, One with Rice, Wine, Tobacco, and Cloth, Value 2000 Livres.

For the First; It must be a strange kind of Ship, and more strange Cargoe, which being loaden with Wine and Cloth should be worth but 12000 Livres, which is under a thousand Pound; but lest it should be an Error of the Press, and a Cypher wanting, be put 12000 for 12000 — and I should be far from insisting on Typographical Mistakes; and I would desire the Gentleman to tell us, from what Port in the World, or to what Port in the World, does any Ship go to or come from England loaden with Wine and Cloth, and I think I may affirm, not to or from any one Part or Place in the whole World — — So that this must be a Ship a coming Home from the Moon, or some *Terra Intognita* of a World, where there is a Trade we never heard of.

If any Man may object, that Holland or Hamburg sends us Rhenish Wine and Cloth, 'tis easily reply'd, that all those Ships bring a Variety of other things also, and cannot be said to be so loaden; also the Quantity of Rhenish brought is a Trifle; and if the Ship, tho' but a Dogger or Hoy, were entirely loaden with Cloth, the Value must be prodigiously more than 12000 Livres, nay tho' a Cypher were wanting, and it were 120000, which is not above 10000 l. Sterling; so that this is all a Piece of Inconsistency, and either there is no such Ship brought into Dunkirk, or the Writer of the News from Dunkirk is an Ignoramus; or he has sent this News to England on purpose to banter us, as if he had said, there was an East-India Ship taken Homeward bound for England loaden with red Herrings.

The second Head is a Ship from Virginia loaden with Tobacco worth 80000 Livres; this is an improbable Value too in the other Extreme, Tobacco, before the English Duty be paid upon it, being but of very small Value compared to the Bulk; but I shall not insist upon Trifles.

The next is yet a more miraculous Affair than the first, and I cannot but wonder a little at its Publication; The third Ship taken from the English, say they, is One loaden with Rice, Wine, Tobacco and Skins, whence she should come with that miraculous Mixture, I cannot imagine; Rice we have indeed from Carolina, but as to Wine indeed we have been promis'd fine things that way, but I have heard of no Produce yet, nor will the Merchants there make any Pretensions to it; from other Parts we may have Rice, as from India, Turkey, or Barbary, but then they must beg your Pardon as to Tobacco or Wine — — Upon the whole, these monstrous Cargoes are very unaccountable, and may give us some Ground to hope, no such Ships at all have been brought into Dunkirk.

But now we have another unaccountable Story, on Board the Royal Oak Man of War in the late Engagement, viz. That a Boy's Head was shot off in the Powder Room of the Ship.

Now if this was not just as possible as to say, a Boy's Head was shot off 20 Foot under-ground, I appeal to all, that know any thing of Ships Powder Rooms and great Shot, to determine: The Powder Room of a Man of War, we all know, is down to the very Bottom of the Ship, under all their other Rooms or Places of Store, generally in the Fore part of the Ship, as I understand it, so plac'd, that it may be out of Danger, either from Fire within or Shot without; what kind of a Shot it must be, must come into the Powder Room, and which way it got in, is a thing, I dare say, the Relator can give no Account of; if it went in dry, it would in all Probability have fir'd the Powder, and blown up the Ship; if it went in under Water, it would have sunk the Ship; besides that, I believe, all Men will allow, it was impossible a Shot could reach the Pow-

der

der Room, either wet or dry ; and so much for ignorant Mistakes.

I cannot leave the Subject however, till I come to something, which, I think, has a yet more dangerous and mischevons Design it ; and in this I shall be obliged to be more particular.

There is a News-writer in some Part of Britain, call'd Mr. DYER, whether it be the same that lives in London, and has been so often reprov'd both in publick and in private, and sometimes corrected too for scandalous and false News, I do not determine : But the Character this Gentleman's Paper has in the Part of Britain, where I now converse with such things, is this ; That if there be any bad News to be had, he is certain to be the first to tell it, and to make the most of it ; and it ever he adds his own Remarks, they are as malicious as he can make them, and both these things will be made good to a Nicety in the following Story.

I am also to remark one thing more on this News-writer, which I have often been inform'd of since my being in Scotland, viz. That he is pleased to vary his Letter from England thither, as Occasions may offer, and leave out on one hand, and add on the other, things of particular Kinds, which are in, or not in his Letter in England, as he sees Occasion; and this is one Reason, why I take Notice of the Matter before me ; for sure he cannot have the Face in England to write what follows, or certainly not the Fate to do it unpunished.

First, of the Victory gain'd by the Duke of Berwick in Spain, in order to magnifie it to the Understanding of the People in remote Parts of this Island, he has a Paragraph in his Letter of May the ... and which I transcribe Verbatim.

" The Lord Buckley, Brother-in-Law to the Duke of Berwick, is arriv'd at Paris with the Particulars of the Battle fought in Spain, which are as follow : That the Confederates lost 6000 Men kill'd on the Spot, 8000 taken Prisoners ; amongst which are the General D'bona, 2 Lieutenant Generals, 8 Major Generals, 12 Brigadier Generals, 20 Colonels, and 80 Inferior Officers, 24 Peices of Cannon, and 120 Colours and Standards : That 6 English, 5 Dutch, and 3 Portuguese Bat-

" talions surrendred themselves at Discretion, that my Lord Galloway is dead of his Wounds, that General Das Minas is shot thro' the Body, and that the Army is marching to Valencia.

That these things are possible in the Circumstances, which things were in on that side, I believe, even Mr. Dyer himself will not affirm ; That it is extravagantly beyond all the Accounts, even the French themselves have publish'd, I suppose every body will grant also — What the Design then of magnifying the Conquests of the Enemy beyond all Manner of Probabilities, no Man can imagine, other than what I have often observed to be the Reason for doing it themselves, viz. To encourage and hearten up their People, and feed them with the Air of Hopes and empty Projects, that they may not make a tight Guess at their own Circumstances.

Now if this be the Reason, then this Gentleman must be allow'd to act in Concert with French Power and French Principles, as far as in him lies, to support the drooping Spirits of the Party here, who are embark'd in the same Interest.

Spreading false News has always been counted pernicious to the Government, and often punished by all wise Governments ; and among all the Spreadings of false News, I know none more pernicious in its Kind, than magnifying the Losses and Disasters of a Nation, and making them seem greater than really they are.

The same Method this Gentleman News-writer took with our Losses at Sea, when in his first Letters he told us all over England, that the Dunkirk Squadron had taken all our 3 Men of War, and 30 Sail of Merchants Ships, being the whole Fleet that sailed with them from the Downs ; and this Way of magnifying our Losses is not without its Uses, tho' the Delusion lasts but for a while ; for if this has taken up the Place of the present Paper, I shall in my next give you a yet larger Account of the Forwardness of this Gentleman and some others, to magnifie our Enemies, and to sink the Honour and Reputation of their own Country.

'Tis enough that I give you the Fact and some necessary Observations upon it, let the Gen-

Gentlemen concord give you the Reasons for their taking such Liberties with their native Country, if they please.

I hope, Britain is past the Danger of all these Follies, She is strengthened by Peace at home, and thereby doubly fortified against Disasters abroad : 'Tis not every little Loss, nor not every great one neither, that can reduce her to Distress or discourage her People—— Allow all they can suggest in Spain, and all they can say at Sea, tho' these are Losses, and we are sorry for them ; all this won't raise French Power, or restore French Courage ; it will not slacken the Resolutions of the Confederates, nor weaken their Councils ; 'tis too late, the Gentlemen only show their Good-Will, but their Cause is too far run ; 'tis time for them to despair, not for us ; they may even give over the Cause.

The Reader is desir'd to correct the following Error in our last, viz. p. 173. l. 6. r.  
Adherence to.

#### A D V E R T I S E M E N T S.

Preparing for the Press, and great Part of it finished,

**A Compleat HISTORY OF THE UNION.** The Work will contain about 250 Sheets in Folio, to be finish'd in six Months from the UNION : Being an Account of all the fruitless Attempts made in former Times for Uniting these Kingdoms, with a particular Account of all the Transactions of the present Treaty, the many Contrivances and vigorous Opposicions against it, both in England and Scotland, whether within the Parliament or without.

Extracted out of the original Records, Registers, Journals, and other Authorities in both Kingdoms.

With an Appendix,

Containing an Abridgement of all the Alterations made in the Laws, Trade, Customs and Constitution of both Kingdoms by the UNION.

By the Author of the True-Born-Englishman.

Proposals for Printing the said Book by Subscription, will speedily be publish'd, and in the mean Time Subscriptions are taken in by John Matthews, Printer hereof. The Price is 20 s. in Quires, 5 s. to be paid down.

These are to give Notice.

**T**HAT MARY KIRLEUS, the Widow of JOHN KIRLEUS, Son of Dr. THO. KIRLEUS, a Sworn-Physician, in ordinary to King Charles II. Sells (rightly prepar'd) his Famous Drink and Pills; experienc'd above 50 Years to cure all Ulcers, Sores, Scabs, Itch, Scurf, Scurvies, Leprosies, Running of the Reins, and the most inveterate VENEREAL Disease, with all its attending Symptoms, without Fluxing, Confinement, or destructive Mercurial Preparations: These incomparable Medicines need no Words to express their Virtues ; the many miserable One, that have been happily cured, after gives over by others, sufficiently recommend them as the most Sovereign Remedy in the World against all such Malignities : She cures many after Fluxing, and in Compassion to the distressed, will deal according to the Patient's Ability. The Drink is 3 s. the Quart, the Pill 1 s. the Box with Directions, and Advice gratis.

+++ She lives at the Golden-Ball in Hand-Court, over against great Turn-stile in Holborn.

**T**HE Royal Chymical Cosmeticke, experienced for 7 Years past, by above a 1000 several Persons, effectually to cure the most inveterate Scabs, Itch, Tetters, Ring-worms, white scaly Breastings out, often taken for the Leprosy, Salt-Humours, &c. In any Part of the Body, and that in a few days, when the Deformity has been some Years. It infallibly frees the Face, &c. of Worms in the Skin, Pimples, Pustules, Heat, Redness, Yellowness, Sunburnings, and such like Defilements, rendering the Skin white, smooth and soft : Being the most certain and safe Restorer, Preserver and Improver of a good Complexion, or natural Beauty, yet known. 'Tis a neat clean Medicine, and of a grateful Scent, fit to be used by the most delicate of the Fair Sex, or to young Children. Price 3 s. or 2 s. and 6 d. the Bottle with Directions. To be had at Mr. Roper's, Bookseller in Fleetstreet, and at the Golden Ball in Half Moon Court, on Ludgate-Hill.